

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CPR-01
PM-05 NSC-05 OPR-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SY-05
A-01 /060 W
-----064129 191946Z /44
O P 191810Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6998
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 0604

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W DIRECTOR THOMAS W.M. SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, US, IV (YACE, PHILIPPE)
SUBJECT: VISIT TO UNITED STATES OF IVORY COAST
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHILIPPE YACE

REF: ABIDJAN 0584

1. I HAVE JUST SPOKEN TO PRESIDENT YACE ON THE TELEPHONE
TO CONVEY GOVERNOR HARRIMAN'S INVITATION TO LUNCHEON.
YACE DEEPLY APPRECIATES GOVERNOR'S INVITATION BUT
INFORMED ME THAT FEBRUARY 1, 2, AND 3 HE WILL BE IN
GUADELOUPE IN FRENCH ANTILLES (HIS WIFE'S BIRTHPLACE)
VISITING HIS IN-LAWS. HE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE BACK IN
NEW YORK FROM ANTILLES UNTIL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5. ONLY
DATE WHEN HE COULD BE IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 6, SINCE HE MUST DEPART NEW YORK FOR PARIS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7. I TOLD YACE THAT I WOULD CONVEY
THIS INFORMATION TO GOVERNOR HARRIMAN AND SEE WHETHER
LUNCHEON IN WASHINGTON ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 WAS POSSIBLE.
YACE ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS WARMEST PERSONAL GREETINGS
TO GOVERNOR HARRIMAN AND HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GOVERNOR'S
INVITATION. HE REGRETS THAT AVAILABLE TIME IS SO LIMITED
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AND SAID THAT IF FEBRUARY 6 WAS NOT RPT NOT CONVENIENT
FOR THE GOVERNOR, HE WOULD UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY AND WOULD
LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING GOVERNOR HARRIMAN ON HIS NEXT TRIP.
I ASSURED YACE THAT WE WOULD PASS HIS MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY TO
THE GOVERNOR AND THAT I WOULD TRY TO ADVISE HIM WHETHER
LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 6 WAS FEASIBLE BEFORE YACE'S DEPARTURE
FROM ABIDJAN FOR PARIS THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 22.

2. COMMENT: SINCE THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF YACE'S INTENTION TO GO FROM NEW YORK TO GUADELOUPE, IT MAY PUT A CRIMP IN PLANS TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. YACE TOLD ME THAT HE WILL SEE HIS DOCTOR SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, AND EXPECTS TO GO ON TO GUADELOUPE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER IF HIS CHECK-UP IS SATISFACTORY. THIS MEANS OF COURSE THAT HE WILL PROBABLY BE OUT OF NEW YORK DURING MOST OR ALL OF WEEK OF JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4. NEVERTHELESS, IF GOVERNOR HARRIMAN IS ABLE TO DEFER HIS LUNCHEON UNTIL FEBRUARY 6, I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR YACE TO GO TO WASHINGTON THAT DAY AND THAT WE SHOULD PERSEVERE WITH EFFORTS TO SET UP MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND CHAIRMAN PRICE SAME DAY IF POSSIBLE.

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING GOVERNOR'S REACTION BY RETURN CABLE NIACT IMMEDIATE SO THAT I CAN GET BACK TO YACE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR PARIS JANUARY 22.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ABIDJA00604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780029-0370
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780147/aaaabnnl.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ff23be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ABIDJAN 584
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3750939
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO UNITED STATES OF IVORY COAST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHILIPPE YACE
TAGS: OVIP, US, IV, (YACE, PHILIPPE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ff23be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014